

## UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION

# Decision about a change to the permit for Baltic Pipe natural gas pipeline in the Baltic Sea

19th October 2021

The Danish Energy Agency has received an application for a change to the Baltic Pipe project in the Baltic Sea from the contractor Gaz-System S.A.

The application is an optimized design proposal for the Baltic Pipe natural gas pipeline in the Baltic Sea, where the applicant proposes to lay the pipeline on the seabed where the pipeline route crosses three shipping lanes without any further intervention work.

In the environmental impact assessment (EIA) for the Danish part of the Baltic Pipe offshore pipeline from February 2019 it is described that the pipeline will be trenched into the seabed or protected by rock dumping where the pipeline route crosses the three shipping lanes. The optimized design proposal is thus not covered by the existing environmental impact assessment and a screening of the project change must be conducted, in accordance with the Danish Environmental Assessment Act (miljøvurderingsloven<sup>1</sup>) Annex 2, no. 13, litra a.

The Danish Energy Agency has decided that the applied project change from Gaz-System S.A. does not require an environmental assessment since the applied change is not assessed to have any significant negative environmental impacts, cf. § 21 (1) of the Danish Environmental Assessment Act.

The pipeline design proposal is a change to a project on the continental shelf regarding establishment of pipelines for transport of hydrocarbons for which the Offshore Impact Assessment Executive Order<sup>2</sup> applies, cf. § 4 (1) of the Continental Shelf Act<sup>3</sup>.

The Danish Energy Agency has decided that an impact assessment is not needed for the proposed project change, cf. § 4 of the Offshore Impact Assessment Executive Order, and that the impacts from the project change on Annex IV species and international protected areas are insignificant.

---

<sup>1</sup> Lovbekendtgørelse nr. 973 af 25. juni 2020 om miljøvurdering af planer og programmer og af konkrete projekter (VVM), som ændret ved LOV nr. 2192 af 29. december 2020.

<sup>2</sup> Bekendtgørelse nr. 434 af 2. maj 2017 om konsekvensvurdering vedrørende internationale naturbeskyttelsesområder og beskyttelse af visse arter ved forundersøgelser, efterforskning og inddeling af kulbrinter, lagring i undergrunden, rørledninger, m.v. offshore, som ændret ved BEK nr. 1433 af 25. juni 2021

<sup>3</sup> Lovbekendtgørelse nr. 1189 af 21/09/2018 om lov om kontinentalsoklen og visse rørledningsanlæg på søterritoriet.

**Energistyrelsen**

Carsten Niebuhrs Gade 43  
1577 København V

Niels Bohrs Vej 8  
6700 Esbjerg

T: +45 3392 6700  
E: ens@ens.dk

www.ens.dk

The decision has been made following a review of the forwarded application material including an environmental screening document, a quantitative risk assessment report, a design verification and consultation responses.

The environmental impacts from the proposed project change has been assessed in accordance with § 21 and the criteria in Annex 6 of the Danish Environmental Assessment Act. The Danish Energy Agency has also assessed whether the project change in itself or in connection with other projects or plans can be assumed to affect designated nature conservation areas, and whether the change will damage or destroy breeding or resting areas for Annex IV species of the Habitats Directive, cf. § 4 (1) and (2), and § 8 (1) and (2) of the Offshore Impact Assessment Executive Order.

When assessing the proposed change, the Danish Energy agency has emphasized that:

- The environmental impacts from the project change are temporary and insignificant due to the limited size and character of the project change.
- The marine environment and the descriptors in the Danish Marine Strategy II will not be affected in any significant way by the project change, since it is assessed that the change will only have a marginal effect on the mixture and inflow of deep-water currents in the Baltic Sea. It is estimated that the project change will reduce the inflow in the Baltic Sea with less than 1%.
- The risk for human health and safety is not affected in any negative way by the change as the optimized design is based upon a detailed risk assessment and is approved by an independent verification body.
- The project change does not have any cumulative or transboundary impacts since no other projects near the project areas are deemed to be affected by the project change and since the proposed change is of limited size and character.
- Due to the limited size of the project change and a minimum distance to the nearest Natura 2000 areas of 14 km, the impacts on Natura 2000 areas from the proposed change are negligible and insignificant.
- Annex IV species are not affected in any significant way, since the applied project change does not generate underwater noise and will not disturb Annex IV species in their natural habitat or damage or destroy breeding or resting areas for harbor porpoises.

Information about the decision can be requested to Mads Kløve Hallstrøm, the Danish Energy Agency on phone +45 3395 0837 or by email [mklh@ens.dk](mailto:mklh@ens.dk).

This translation is provided for convenience only, and in the event of any conflict between the wording of the Danish and English versions, the wording of the Danish version shall prevail in all respects.



### **Appeal guidance**

#### *Decision concerning § 21 (1) of the Danish Environmental Assessment Act*

The decision may be appealed in writing to the Danish Environmental and Food Appeals Board, Toldboden 2, 8800 Viborg, ([mfkn@naevneneshus.dk](mailto:mfkn@naevneneshus.dk)) cf. § 49 of the Danish Environmental Assessment Act.

Appeals must be submitted no later than four weeks after the decision has been announced.

#### *Decision concerning § 4 of the Offshore Impact Assessment Executive Order*

The decision may be appealed in writing to the Danish Energy Board of Appeal, Toldboden 2, 8800 Viborg, ([ekn@naevneneshus.dk](mailto:ekn@naevneneshus.dk)) cf. § 6a (1) of the Continental Shelf Act.

Appeals must be submitted no later than four weeks after the decision has been announced.